

York, d. 30 m. Martii 1840. Herb. Preiss No. 1889". Bentham, in "Fl. Austral.", 1: 162, supposed it to belong to some other genus, but gave no alternative; "Ind. Kew." reduced it, curiously, to *Velleia trinervis* (R.Br.) Labill.; Krause in his monograph on Goodeniaceae did not evaluate it, and Gardner omitted the name from his "Enumeratio" (1931).

Mr. J. H. Kern has now examined the holotype, preserved at Leiden; it appeared to him (Blumea, 13, 1956: 116) to represent a Caryophyllaceous plant, widely spread in temperate Australia, originally described as *Drymaria filiformis* Bth., now referred to *Stellaria*, as *St. filiformis* (Bth.) Mattf. (in Fedde, Repert. Beih., 100, 1938: 148). As Bentham used the same specific epithet as De Vriese, that of the latter cannot be employed, though older than Bentham's to which *Euthales filiformis* De Vriese now falls as a synonym.

The second species, also occurring in Western Australia, was described as *Astragalus pterostylis* DC. (DC. Prod. 2, 1825: 294), unfortunately without citing the native country and collector. Later, Decaisne, in his account of the Timor flora, recorded it from that island, and this was perpetuated by Miquel, in his "Flora Indiae Batavae". This record was highly suspicious as the genus *Astragalus*, though one of the greatest in the world, is absent from Malesia and Australia. It has appeared that the holotype material is not at Geneva, but in the Paris Herbarium. There were four sheets of which three bear the locality "îles des amiraux", which are presumably the islets situated in Admiralty Bay, NW. Australia. One of the sheets, which all form together obviously one collection, bears the locality "Timor". The latter locality can be discarded as early French collections contain many erroneous localisations from Timor (see "Flora Males.", I, 1: XVIII-XIX, XXIV).

As to the identity of *Astragalus pterostylis* DC. it appeared that it is the same species as *Swainsona occidentalis* F.v.M., under which name it still figured of course in the monograph of this genus by A. T. Lee (Contr. N.S.W. Nat. Herb., 1, 1948: 215). Unfortunately this name cannot be maintained, and the correct name is *Swainsona pterostylis* (DC.) Bakh. f. (Steenis, C.G.G.J. van & R.C. Bakhuizen van den Brink, in Bot. Jahrb., 86, 1967: 394-396).

—C. G. G. J. VAN STEENIS, Rijksherbarium, Leiden, Holland.

Is the Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus*) Extinct on the Australian Mainland?—An account of the recent discovery of a remarkably well-preserved carcass of the Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus*) in a cave near Eucla, Western Australia, has been published by the finders, D. C. Lowry and J. W. J. Lowry in *Helictite*, 5 (2), January 1967: 25-29. The discovery of these comparatively recent remains prompts me to place on record my sight observation in 1949 in New South Wales.

At the time I prepared short notes about this observation and forwarded them to Mr. Charles Barrett, but as far as I know, they were never published. In 1965, upon request, I gave this information to Dr. E. H. M. Ealey, of Monash University.

During the C.S.I.R.O. Entomological Expedition, November 1949, I had the fortune of seeing the animal on the route from Bourke to Wanaaring, in an uninhabited area a few miles past Warrego River, where I was collecting on the right hand side of the road, only a few yards from the road. It was 11 a.m., and I observed the animal for 1-2 minutes from a distance of about 15-20 metres; it ran along the sand which was covered with some very small bushes, the rest of the area being sandy. I saw the

animal from a somewhat oblique angle, and the head was not clearly visible, but the hind quarters and its left side were extremely well visible. Its size was that of a medium-sized dog, and the body proportions were also dog-like; it was uniformly grey-brown, with short hair; the strange tail, extremely wide at the base, seemed to be a continuation of the hind quarters; the hind leg was strongly marked with almost black horizontal stripes.

Generally, although dog-like, it was not a Canid, because of the structure of the hind part of the body. The most remarkable feature was the strange manner of running; although the animal was swinging regularly sideways, the hind part of the body made a kind of bobbing, up and down movement; the impression was as if the animal was drunk, as I had never seen anything like it. I hoped to find some specific characteristics from the footprints, but the sandy soil did not show them up; they were of the size of a medium-sized dog's imprint.

I made all the observations with great care, hoping to discuss the animal with my colleagues, but they unfortunately had been collecting on the opposite side of the road, and had not seen it. Later, back in Canberra, I came across an illustration of the Tasmanian Tiger, and immediately recognised it as the animal I had observed on my trip.

The discovery of the carcase in the area of Eucla, and my observation of the live specimen, convinces me that the animal still exists on the mainland of Australia.

Ecological conditions of the areas west of the Warrego River and of Eucla are somewhat similar—arid, stony, uninhabited areas; the Aborigines probably have knowledge of the animal, but few white men venture into that environment. Now, however, I feel that in the near future this old problem should be solved.

—S. J. PARAMONOV, Canberra, A.C.T.

Oriental Pratincole at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary.—

For many years the southern limit of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*)—a migrant wader from northern Asia—was considered to be Point Cloates. However in November and December 1964, J. Ford saw two birds at Hamelin Pool Lake, Shark Bay, and collected one in December 1965 (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 10 (3), 1966: 74). The species has now been observed in the Perth area. On January 28, 1967, I took a Russian ecologist, Mr Victor Kamenev from the visiting research ship *Ob*, on an ornithological tour around Perth. At Pelican Point we were very interested to see two Oriental Pratincoles on the western side of the spit, on the bare sand, in company with a Grey Plover. I informed other ornithologists and the two birds were seen again on January 29 and 30, with R. H. Stranger, and on February 3, with M. Tarbottom.

The general body colour of the birds was dark brown, whole-coloured with no markings, and no rufous tone about it. The breast was dusky, with a rather ill-defined "bib" pattern in one bird, in frontal view. This was more defined in the second bird, the black line curving around the eye and enclosing a chestnut patch. The abdomen was white. Beak dark. Legs light-coloured, greyish-brown, and comparatively short. The wings and tail were long. In flight the clear-cut white rump was conspicuous. The tail was broadly tipped black, with no white in the outer tail feathers, and showed a shallow forking. The wing quills were black. The birds, when disturbed, flew back and forth several times and had a graceful flight.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.